

REMARKS

Claims 8-17, 19-27, 29-35, and 37-104 are now pending in this application. Claims 55-104 have been added by this Amendment. Claims 1-7, 18, 28, and 36 have been canceled. In the August 30, 2002, Office Action, claims 8-48 were rejected as being based upon the Examiner's belief that the reissue declaration was defective under 35 U.S.C. § 251. The Examiner objected to the Declaration because it failed to specifically identify at least one error being corrected in the reissue. The Examiner took the position that the error identified in paragraph 7 of the Reissue Application Declaration of Michel Gondouin was not specific enough.

Without accepting the Examiner's conclusion, Applicant has submitted with this Amendment the Supplemental Reissue Declaration of Michel Gondouin. The Supplemental Reissue Declaration specifically identifies in paragraph 7 at least one error being corrected. In particular, the Declaration identifies as an error that Applicant's patent protection need not be limited to an apparatus that includes a hydraulically-operated slot-cutting tool for selectively perforating the drainhole liner as claimed in independent claims 1, 2, and 3, or to a method including selectively perforating the uncemented lower part of the coiled tubing liner in situ using a hydraulically-operated slot-cutting tool as claimed in independent claim 7. The Declaration further states that these elements are not required in claims 8-104. Accordingly, the Supplemental Reissue Declaration satisfies 35 U.S.C. § 251 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.175(a), and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection based on a defective Declaration be withdrawn.

Claims 17, 20, 24, 27, 29, 32, 35, 37, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,012,877 to Winters, and claims 35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § (b) as be anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,173,035 to Armentrout et al. In addition, claims 25 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winters in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,354,958. Claims 8-16, 18-19, 21-23, 26, 28, 30-31, 34, 36,

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and 39-54 were not rejected based on prior art. Thus, the Examiner appears to have found that the subject matter of these claims is patentable over the prior art.

Independent claims 17, 27, and 35 have been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 18, 28, and 36, respectively. Claim 18, 28, and 36 all recite applying settable material about the joint assembly and tubular member. Applicant submits that the prior does not show applying sealing material about the joint assembly and tubular member. Dependent claims 18, 28, and 36 were not rejected based on prior art, and it is believed that the Examiner has thus recognized that the claimed subject matter to be patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, claims 17, 27, and 35 are believed to be allowable, along with the claims dependent there from. Claim 19 was also amended to change its dependency from canceled claim 18 and to claim 17, and is believed to be allowable. Claim 38 has also been amended to correct its dependency and is not dependent from claim 37. Claim 38 is also believed to be allowable.

New claim 55 corresponds to claim 21 written in independent form and is fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001. Claim 21 was not rejected based on prior art, and claim 55 is therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 56-61 correspond to claims 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, and 26, respectively, but now depend from claim 55. Claims 56-61 are fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001 for claims 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 26.

New claim 62 corresponds to claim 22 written in independent form and is fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2002. Claim 22 was not rejected based on prior art, and claim 62 is therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 63-69 correspond to claims 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, and 26, respectively, but now depend from claim 62.

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Claims 63-69 are fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001 for claims 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25 and 26.

New claim 70 corresponds to claim 26 written in independent form and is fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2002. Claim 26 was not rejected based on prior art, and claim 70 is therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 71-78 correspond to claims 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25, respectively, but now depend from claim 71. Claims 71-78 are fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001 for claims 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25.

New claim 79 corresponds to claim 30 written in independent form and is fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2002. Claim 30 was not rejected based on prior art, and claim 79 is therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 80-84 correspond to claims 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34, respectively, but now depend from claim 79. Claims 80-84 are fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001 for claims 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34.

New claim 85 corresponds to claim 31 written in independent form and is fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2002. Claim 31 was not rejected based on prior art, and claim 85 is therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 86-90 correspond to claims 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34, respectively, but now depend from claim 85. Claims 86-90 are fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001 for claims 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34.

New claim 91 corresponds to claim 34 written in independent form and is fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2002. Claim 34 was not rejected based on prior art, and claim 91 is therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 92-96

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correspond to claims 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, respectively, but now depend from claim 91.

Claims 92-96 are fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001 for claims 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33.

New claim 97 corresponds to claim 36 written in independent form and is fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2002. Claim 36 was not rejected based on prior art, and claim 97 is therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 98-100 correspond to claims 37, 38, and 39, respectively but now ultimately depend from claim 97. Claims 98-100 are fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001 for claims 37, 38, and 39.

New claim 101 corresponds to claim 39 written in independent form and is fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2002. Claim 39 was not rejected based on prior art, and claim 101 is therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 102-104 correspond to claims 36, 37, and 38, respectively, but now ultimately depend from claim 101. Claims 101-104 are fully supported for the reasons stated in the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 4, 2001 for claims 36, 37, and 38.

In the August 30, 2002, Office Action, the Examiner also identified a typographical error in the specification, which has been corrected by way of this Amendment. In addition, Applicant has amended the specification to identify all other continuation reissue applications. Also, the Examiner approved the proposed drawing changes filed on April 4, 2001, and requested that Applicant submit corrected drawings. Accordingly, Applicant files herewith a Submission of Formal Drawings, which includes the changes to Figs. 3, 4, 6, and 10 approved by the Examiner. Finally, Applicant submits a copy of "Exhibit O" from the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 4, 2002. At the request of the Examiner, on June 27, 2002, Applicant had provided

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copies of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, which had previously been submitted in the parent reissue application. The Examiner indicated in the outstanding Office Action that Exhibit O was inadvertently omitted from the materials he received. Accordingly, a copy of Exhibit O, which is the Natural Reserves Group, Inc. v. Baker Hughes, Inc., 96-31380, docket sheet, is provided with this Amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the timely allowance of the pending claims.

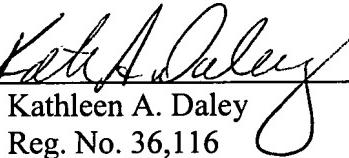
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 28, 2002

By:


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